

Chamberlain Lake Nature Preserve

County: St. Joseph

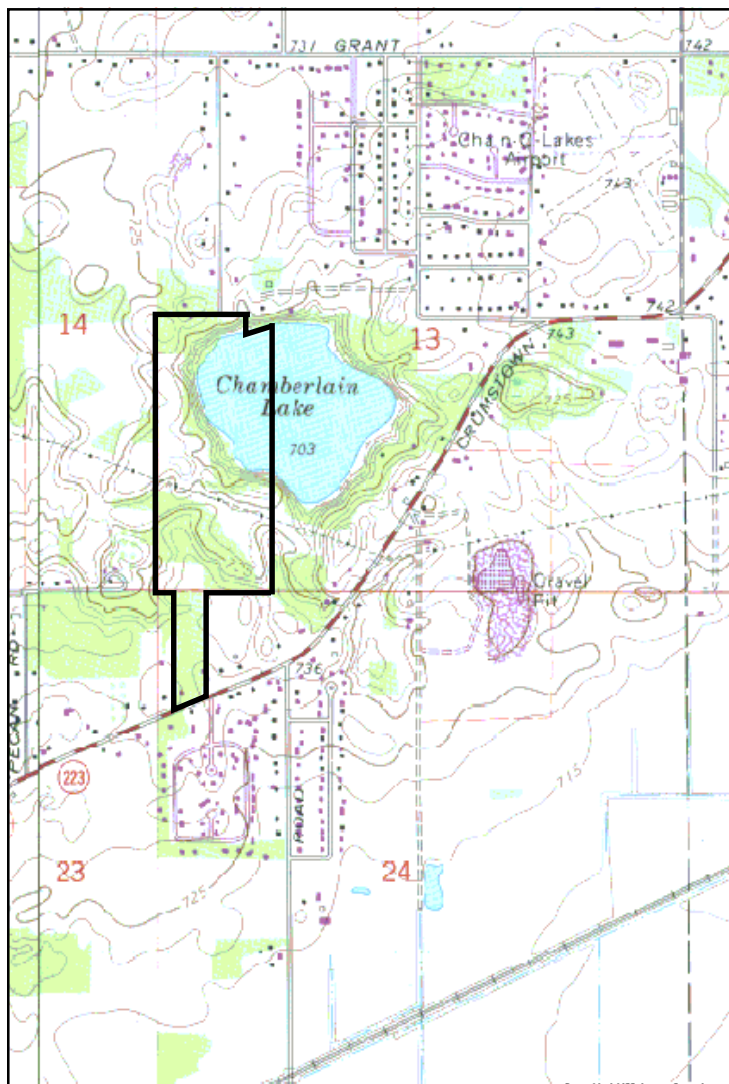
Size: 82.5 acres

Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR



Location and Access

From the intersection of the U.S. 31 bypass with S.R. 2 on the west side of South Bend—go west on S.R. 2 (Western Ave.) to the first cross street, Pine Rd. (Pine Rd. is just past St. Joseph's Cemetery.) Go south on Pine Rd. about 1 mi. to Crumstown Hwy. (S.R. 223). Go west on Crumstown Hwy a little less than 1 mi. to the nature preserve parking lot on the right. (Ramblewood subdivision is on the left just before the parking lot.) A trail leads through the woods to Chamberlain Lake. The parking lot and trail are maintained with the assistance of the St. Joseph County Parks and Recreation Department.



Description: Chamberlain Lake is a shallow basin with little open water during much of the year. As the water level recedes during the course of a normal year, interesting wetland communities develop including muck flats and floating mats of vegetation. Several of the wetland plants growing here have geo-graphical affinities to the Atlantic coastal plain, and therefore, are quite disjunct from their normal range. Included among the unusual species here are dwarf umbrella sedge, warty panic grass, pipewort, purple bladderwort, spatulate-leaved sundew, and black-fruited spikerush.

A tornado in fall of 2001 knocked down almost every canopy tree in the surrounding oak woods, but caused no damage in the wetland. It will take many years for the forest trees to regrow to their former size.

Further Information: Division of Nature Preserves, 402 W Washington St. Rm W267, Indianapolis IN 46204-2243. 317-232-0209. www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr
St. Joseph County Parks and Recreation Department, 50651 Laurel Rd. South Bend IN 46637. 574-277-4828.